

THE SCROLL

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O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

MARCHING FOR LIFE. O'Gorman students traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the March for Life rally. The rally was held on January 27. For more on the event see page two.

Information age changes dynamic for all stakeholders in grading process

David Berman
Staff Writer

Over the many years of parent-teacher conferences at O'Gorman High School, there have been a few changes to the process. Grading softwares like Infinite Campus now allow parents to know how their child is doing before they even meet with the teachers. This has led to a different dynamic between teachers, students, and their parents than in the past.

"Infinite Campus allows students and parents much more accessibility, especially on a weekend or holiday," science teacher Jane Schnell said. "It also makes it so much easier for us teachers to input grades and make sure they have a live look at the status of the students' grades."

Students and parents are also grateful to have the technology in place. "I'm glad I'm able to see how I'm doing in my classes so I know which ones I need to work harder in," said junior Michael Kovash.

Kovash's father agreed: "It's nice to be able to check the grades online before we go to conferences so it's not a total surprise."

SFCS announces Groos as new leader

Caleb Impehoven
Staff Writer

On February 2, four months after Sioux Falls Catholic Schools President Robert Wehde announced his intent to retire, the SFCS announced their decision for Wehde's replacement: O'Gorman's own Mr. Kyle Groos.

Groos has had many memorable moments over the last 14 years at O'Gorman High School. "When we took on the renovation on this campus is probably the most memorable from the vibrating ground to the excitement of seeing the new building go up," said Groos.

While renovating O'Gorman High School was memorable, the accomplishment he is most proud of is the great work that the O'Gorman teachers and students continue to do which makes the SFCS mission statement a reality.

Both teachers and students alike think well of Mr. Groos. "He's a very approachable guy and always has a positive attitude towards education, and is always



Mr. Kyle Groos

willing to talk about problems, whether that be through the education or just the personal morals of each student," said Luke Fleck, a senior student at O'Gorman.

Mrs. Rachael Kramer, having been both a student and a teacher under Groos, reported similarly, saying, "When I was a student at O'Gorman, Mr. Groos always seemed proud of the accomplishments of O'Gorman students. He held us to a high standard and always kept us reaching for high achievements."

Although Groos will miss being principal at O'Gorman, he does look forward to the new journey of being SFCS President. As president, in the near future, he would like to grow enrollment, specifically in the elementary schools, continue the technology push in the schools, and improve academics overall.

Both the students and the teachers at O'Gorman feel he has what it takes to succeed at his new job. "He's very good at being a leader," said Fleck. "He's very authoritative as well as very compassionate at times. He is sensitive when he needs to be, but also is very serious when the time is called for."

"Mr. Groos is driven and seeks excellence in his work and in the work of his staff," said Kramer.

According to O'Gorman High School, the search for a new principal will begin immediately, as of Feb. 2. In the meantime, Groos will assist in the transition. He will officially begin his first term as SFCS President July 1 of this year.

All in the Family: Many generations call O'Gorman home

Max Stenson
Co-Editor

The Sioux Falls Catholic Schools prides itself on community, faith and excellence. There is no one better to vouch for this than the families that have multi-generational history within the system.

One such family is the Billions. "My grandpa Jack went to Cathedral before O'Gorman High School was even built," senior Sam Billion said. "Both of my parents went to O'Gorman, and they met in high school. My three siblings went through the Catholic school system, too."

Billion, a third generation O'Gorman student, enjoys his Catholic education.

"My parents like the Catholic aspect and strong education aspect of O'Gorman High School. It's an all-around good school," Billion said. "Also, both of my parents and all three of my siblings had Mr. Basche as a teacher."

Another multi-generational family in the Sioux Falls Catho-

lic Schools is the Wick/Nelson family. "My mom's father Hal Wick attended O'Gorman and was in its first graduating class of 1962. My mom also went to O'Gorman," senior James Nelson said.

"My two older sisters graduated from O'Gorman, and one of them, Ellen, graduated in 2012 - 50 years after my grandpa graduated from O'Gorman."

Nelson said that his family loves the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools because students can live out their faith throughout the day.

"We have many families that have been a part of our Sioux Falls Catholic Schools for generations," Carol Nesbitt, Director of Community Relations and Alumni for the SFCS said. "They have a long-standing belief in Catholic education and having faith as a part of everything we do. They have been committed to our mission of community, faith and excellence and have wonderful supporters and partners in that mission."

Students attend March for Life

Nicolette Boyum
Co-Editor

As snow fell in Sioux Falls, pro-lifers gathered in the freezing cold to load buses and begin their journey to Washington, D.C.

“The snow didn’t cause any real problems,” said Mr. Jonathan Konz. “It did slow us down a little on our ride out to D.C., but that was pretty small potatoes compared to last year!”

On the way back from the 2016 March for Life, O’Gorman students and staff were stranded on an interstate while a blizzard blew through the midwest.

“Funny story, we actually got stuck on the ice at the Coffee Cup truck stop on the Vermillion exit,” said Konz. “Just one hour into the trip. But, we were able to find a shovel, chip the ice away, and get moving.”

Once in Washington, the group was able to see the Washington and Lincoln memorials as well as the Vietnam and Korean War memorials besides the march.

“Of course we strolled by the White House to take a peek,” said Konz. “Saturday morning many of us went to the Holocaust Museum. That was a powerful experience.”

The rally took place on Friday, Jan. 27. It featured speakers such as Kellyanne Conway, Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York City, and Vice President Mike Pence.

With Vice President Mike



Pro-life supporters march toward the United States Capitol during the January 2017 March for Life. O’Gorman students traveled to the nation’s capital to take part in the march.

Pence’s speech, he became the highest ranking official to ever attend the march despite presidential phone calls from Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

Benjamin Watson, Baltimore Ravens tight end, also spoke at the rally. He emphasized his belief that men should rise up and lead the charge against abortion. The Super Bowl XXXIX champion previously denounced Planned

Parenthood and is spreading his message to schools and events across the country.

“I really enjoyed the football player’s speech,” said sophomore Hannah Berens. “I think it’s cool that he uses his platform to promote our message.”

Konz says he is looking forward to attending next year’s march and continuing to fight for his beliefs.

“One of the most important aspects of the March for Life is that it reminds you that we are part of a vast community,” said Konz. “Much like our Church community strengthens us to continue to pursue holiness, this community strengthens us to continue to fight on for life. That one-by-one, the truth is being seen, and hearts are being changed.”

Students, staff promote service, help community with annual meal

Maria Lusardi
Staff Writer

The annual Empty Bowls soup supper will be March 8 in the O’Gorman cafeteria. For five dollars, people come to eat a variety of soups provided by local restaurants. All proceeds go to the food pantry. There are also bowls for sale made by Mr. Siska’s pottery class. The event is called “Empty Bowls” to help people remember those who are so poor they have no food. Their bowls are empty.

“Empty Bowls has been going for about 20 years,” said Campus Minister Jonathan Konz. He explained it started from “a desire to have a community-wide service project.”

Empty Bowls incorporates the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

“The Catholic community has given me so much and changed my life so this is my little way of giving back,” said junior Theresa Fischer. “It’s the O’Gorman community serving the larger community.”

Most of all, teachers and students alike enjoy how this service impacts the community.

“It’s a good way to help others in a real way,” said junior John Brule’.

“It’s in our own school and in a very direct way impacts our local poor,” said Konz.

Knight Scroll Staff

Editors

Nicolette Boyum
Maxwell Stenson

Staff Writers

David Berman
Rebecca Clark
Caleb Impehoven
Maria Lusardi
Madeline Nguyen
Will Murphy

Adviser

Jason A. Van Engen

Contact

Email:
jvanengen@sfcss.org

Address:

Knight Scroll
Sioux Falls Catholic Schools
3201 S. Kiwanis Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Letters to the Editor

All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

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Club promotes camaraderie, friendly gaming competition among students of all levels

Max Stenson
Co-Editor

O'Gorman High School prides itself on the various clubs and activities available to students. There are a plethora of options to choose from, including chess club, international club, and HOSA, to name a few.

There is also the relatively new video game club, which started in the fall of 2015. As the name suggests, video game club involves members playing video games and competing in tournaments with each other.

"The reason for starting the video game club was so someone who can't do sports feels like they have a spot at O'Gorman," video game club student leader Luke Geis said. "I'm pretty happy with how far we've gotten, and I'm also looking forward to hopefully adding PC gaming to the club in a few months."

Members of the club enjoy the social aspect of meeting af-

ter school to relax and play video games.

"Video game club is a social place, and there are a lot of people there," faculty adviser Mr. Jeffrey Baustian said. "[The students] have a good time."

"The club is casual and everyone is welcome to join. It is very inclusive," sophomore Davis White said. "We play a lot of Super Smash Bros, Star Wars Battlefront, and Madden. We meet twice a week after school on Mondays and Thursdays, and usually have a tournament at the end of each semester."

Although the competition can be fierce among club members while playing against each other, the video game club strives to help students get to know each other better.

"Video game club is a good way for people to get together who previously did not have a way," sophomore Ben Breske said.

Show choir off to busy start; group named grand champs

Nicolette Boyum
Co-Editor

As mid season approaches, the O'Gorman show choir is looking forward to their upcoming competitions and finishing the year strong.

To start off their season, the group traveled to Omaha, Neb.

"It was our first time performing at a major venue and it was really great to see all of our work come to fruition," said director Brian Rasmussen. "The energy and excitement was incredible."

On Feb. 18, O'Gorman traveled to Aberdeen where they were awarded grand champions.

"For the next competition I am looking forward to seeing the shows improve. We received some very helpful comments and suggestions from the adjudicators," said Rasmussen. "We have put in place some changes and I'm excited to see how the audience responds."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

O'Gorman students participate in a show choir competition at Millard West.

Beyond competitions, O'Gorman has also worked to promote the arts through performances at elementary schools in the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools.

Through performing songs to the young audience they hope to encourage students to try out show choir once they reach high school.

"It does serve as a vital recruitment tool for the program down the road," said Rasmus-

sen. "But it also is a great way to show the youth what they can do if they work hard and stick with the arts."

This year's performances follow the theme of "war and peace".

Though songs like "Go Your Own Way" and "I 2 I," O'Gorman tells the story of a couple facing the difficulties of the Civil War.

Their next competition is March 4 at Sioux City East.

"I chose Augustana because of the people. From professors to coaches to classmates, I've met some of the most genuine and passionate people. The people at Augie give you the tools you need to be successful."

**Luke Fritsch, Augustana freshman
O'Gorman Class of 2016
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Students enjoy ‘City of Lights’ formal

Rebecca Clark
Staff Writer

This year O’Gorman’s one and only formal was named “A City of Lights” which was Paris themed. The District was decorated with a balloon Eiffel Tower, a Paris backdrop, and featured a free photo booth.

Formal is the only dance at O’Gorman that allows students outside of O’Gorman to attend. According to Principal Kyle Groos about 586 tickets were sold.

The District was a popular

venue. “This seems to be our favorite venue because the kids like the setup of the venue and like it outside of O’Gorman,” said student council adviser Doug Basche. “You can only decorate a gym so much.”

The student council comes up with the theme. “The toughest challenge is coming up with the theme. That is what the student council discusses the most prior to the formal,” said Basche.

Students were really excited prior to formal. Some students got together preceding formal to eat dinner and spend time with

friends. “My favorite part of formal is meeting up with friends,” said sophomore Ashley May.

Everyone dressed up, and during the dance everyone seemed to have an excellent time.

Formal had friend groups and couples dancing and socializing. Students dance to everything from “Livin’ on a Prayer” by Bon Jovi to “Shut Up and Dance” by Walk The Moon. Sometimes an occasional dance circle would form obligating people to join in.

The formal was held on Feb. 19 at the District.



Students pose for a yearbook photo during the winter formal.

KNIGHT LEGEND



Students dance during the annual winter formal.

KNIGHT LEGEND



Students dance during the annual winter formal. The dance was held on Sunday, Feb. 19 at the District in Sioux Falls.

KNIGHT LEGEND

Knights dominant as tournament nears

Madeline Nguyen
Staff Writer

The boys basketball team has kicked off their season as well as they could have hoped. With a 14-3 record as of mid-February, the team has already found success, and looks forward to future success as well as they continue to improve.

Of the three losses, only one was to a team from South Dakota, putting the boys toward the top of South Dakota high school basketball teams. They have already won the Metro Conference, making back-to-back titles for the team.

"I think the season is going well," said coach Derek Robey. "We are coming together as a group, playing hard and having some success along the way."

The team dynamic is strong and continues to strengthen as the regular season concludes and the team looks toward the state tournament.

"The team's really close," said junior Manny Tor. "We usually have a team dinner the day before every game."

Unfortunately, the team has recently lost senior Captain JP Costello due to a broken hand from a game against Aberdeen Roncalli. He is the second leading scorer and the leading rebounder of the 2017 season and is a major asset to the team.

"Losing a guy like JP will definitely have some drawbacks, but looking on the bright side, it will give someone else a chance to prove themselves and make



KNIGHT SCROLL

Senior Tyler Hayes shoots over a Sioux Falls Christian defender. The Knights won 73-50.

us a deeper and more experienced team upon his return," said Robey.

The team looks forward to competing for yet another district title. Although the district is

full of talent, O'Gorman has great chances of success. The boys team also hopes to compete in the state tournament, which will be held in Rapid City March 16-18.

School to host state competition

Nicolette Boyum
Co-Editor

As O'Gorman powerlifting returns from their fifth consecutive title, they are looking forward to beginning the season strong.

"We have had two meets so far this year and both have gone very well," said coach Chris Isaacson.

Their first meet was held in Brandon where individual lifters performed. Then, they met at the Sioux Falls Classic Invitational hosted at Lincoln High School.

"We are looking forward to the State Powerlifting Meet which will be hosted at O'Gorman on Saturday, March 11," said Isaacson.

This is the first time in 35 years that O'Gorman will host the state meet, previously held by Madi-

son. "We are also looking forward to our USAPL Qualifying Meet on Feb. 25 at O'G," said Isaacson.

"It will be a smaller meet with 10-15 lifters competing but the results will determine which lifters will be competing for O'Gorman at the USAPL National High School Meet in Scranton, Penn."

Powerlifting hosts 85 students this year which includes all grade levels.

"Powerlifting is intended for athletes not participating in winter sports. It has historically been supported by out of season sports at O'Gorman," said Isaacson. "It is a great way to stay in shape and have fun during the long winter months."

Competing is not required but students have the opportunity to perform in either squat, bench, or deadlift categories. If interested, see coach Chris Isaacson.

"My goal every year is to provide a great and fun way for students at O'Gorman to stay in shape and foster healthy habits that will hopefully carry on long after they leave O'Gorman,"

Their next meet is March 11 at O'Gorman High School.

Lady Knights hopeful for strong postseason as road to state begins

From Staff Reports

For the Lady Knights, the 2016-17 season has been one of many changes. After losing four starters from a year ago, the team has had to grow throughout the year.

"I try to lead by example for the younger girls by having a good attitude and working hard," said senior Ashlee Beacom. "I think it's important for us seniors to show them what to do."

The Lady Knights have had an up-and-down year with several big wins followed by short losing streaks.

"We have had some ups and downs so far, but these girls have competed very hard and have been a fun group to coach," said head coach Kent Kolsrud.

The team blew out Sioux City East 67-50 on Feb. 7 after being rescheduled due to a late January snow storm.

Senior Sebo Akoi sees the team making progress. "Our communication skills continue to get better every day, and our main focus as to what we are trying to accomplish is our con-

sistency," said Akoi.

The Lady Knights have lost several close games, and coach Kolsrud sees that as an area of improvement. "We have been practicing special situations and end of the game scenarios to hopefully prepare ourselves to execute to the best of our ability come tournament time," said Kolsrud. "We have gained valuable experience throughout the course of the regular season as many of our games have gone right down to the end."

On Feb. 9 the Lady Knights took on west side rival Roosevelt at the Sanford Pentagon. Roosevelt won 42-36. The Lady Knights were down throughout the game, and managed to climb back within two in the final two minutes.

As the team moves toward district play, Kolsrud remains optimistic. "We are very excited to enter the postseason and hope to be playing our best basketball," said Kolsrud. "We have improved throughout the course of the season and look forward to the challenges of a very good district and region."

Knights stay dedicated as extra work pays off from practice to meets

Max Stenson
Co-Editor

The O'Gorman varsity wrestling team has had tremendous success this year, and the team is proud of their numerous accomplishments.

"I believe the success the wrestling team has had this year would be attributed to the tough nature of the guys, the extra work they have put in outside of the wrestling season, their ability to maintain healthy mental toughness during the season and the focus during the year on constantly trying to score as many points every day in the practice room," coach Matt Lynch said.

"The team has done an excellent job keeping good habits and staying mentally and physically fit overall," Lynch said. "We have placed multiple guys in each tournament we've com-

peted in this year and are working to continue this trend at the state tournament as well."

Senior leadership has been a key factor for the Knights this year. "From the first tournament to now, everybody has been improving their skills," senior team captain T.J. Scheafer said.

Senior Adam Heap, the other team captain, is proud the team was able to compete at state this year.

"We were pretty pumped about state. We've been practicing really hard," Heap said.

Currently, the varsity team is made up of primarily seniors and juniors, but the freshmen and sophomores are expected to help keep the team successful.

"Our coaches have been building some depth in our program with the underclassmen," Scheafer said.

Remakes, updates set to hit cinemas

William Murphy
Staff Writer

With the barren wasteland for movies, February, now over, it is time to look toward the revival of the movie scene with spring blockbusters. While not overwhelming, the upcoming movies offer an amount of entertainment not seen over the past couple of months.

Early on, the month of March shows promise with one of the most anticipated movies of the year in *Kong: Skull Island*, out March 10. Some students even are looking forward to the experience. "I'm going bananas for *Kong: Skull Island*," said Ben Gellerman.

Kong features a combination of established and new actors with leads such as Samuel L. Jackson, Brie Larson, Tom Hiddleston, John C. Reilly and John Goodman. The movie takes place in 1971 and follows a group of explorers and soldiers as they travel to an uncharted island in the Pacific, with no knowledge of what to expect.

The next in the Disney live action movie series is *Beauty and the Beast*. Coming out March 17, *Beauty and the Beast* is directed by Bill Condon of *Twilight* and *Dreamgirls* fame and features Emma Watson, Ewan McGregor and Ian McKellen. The story follows a young woman who comes into contact with a beast and makes an attempt to domesticate his wild heart.

For those true '90s kids born in '98 and '99, March 24 offers the *Power Rangers* movie. Similar to *Total Recall*, *Point Break*, and 1991's *Beauty and the Beast*, *Power Rangers* attempts to recreate the '90s with a touch of the 21st century.

Power Rangers features Elizabeth Banks, Bryan Cranston and Bill Hader in a movie about a group of high school students who must unite with their unique powers in order to save the world.

With spring fever coming on, younger audiences might prefer a light-hearted comedy, such as *The Boss Baby*. *The Boss Baby* is directed by the same person as the *Madagascar* movies, Tom McGrath. This animated movie has Alec Baldwin as the main character, who suits-up and tries to disrupt the evil plot of the CEO of Puppy Co.

Adapting from foreign material is one of the popular ways to draw in audiences from niche markets to see a hollywood movie. *Ghost in the Shell* is an adaptation from the famous manga, that features Scarlett Johansson as a cyborg police officer taking down a nefarious hacker in a dystopian future.

While some controversy has come out about this movie, it garners much attention from the source material and how it has grown from a cult manga into a big budget movie.

Students, staff find ways to stay active in winter

Maria Lusardi
Staff Writer

Winter sends thoughts of lounging in front of a roaring fire with hot chocolate and Netflix. But what about staying physically fit?

"The cold makes you want to be lazy," said sophomore Abby Gaspari.

Indeed, frosty weather drives many people inside, but students and teachers still find many ways to keep in shape. Moreover, the holiday flourish of food often doesn't help the winter waistline either.

"The food around the season," makes staying healthy hard for freshman Samuel Loecker.

In spite of colder weather and added food, many individuals try to stay active.

"With the weather being cold some students are less likely to have the opportunity to be active," said physical education teacher Kent Kolsrud. But there are many ways for individuals to remain active in a dreary time of the

year.

Physically active groups at O'Gorman during winter include basketball, wrestling, show choir, gymnastics, and powerlifting. Those aren't the only ways to stay fit, however. Math teacher Ms. Crystal Richter has run everyday for five years and has currently made over 1,836 runs. "I think it gives me more energy throughout the day as well," said Richter.

O'Gorman veteran math teacher Ken Lindemann makes sure to stay active in the winter as well. "I run on treadmills, swim in the pool, and spend time on the elliptical trainer in the weight room," said Lindemann.

Students also have the added benefit of working out with family members who give them encouragement.

"Sometimes I'll go with my family and lift weights," said Ovation! choir member Ali North.

Keeping up the motivation to work out can be challenging. But the key to success for many is making it a habit, using clear goals, and doing something

fun.

"Long, cold winters can really drag on so finding activities you really enjoy are important," said Kolsrud.

Lindemann, who started running every day in ninth grade so he could make weight for wrestling, said, "I set goals and write down the things I do."

Gaspari enjoys the social aspect of fitness. "I joined basketball to be around my friends," said Gaspari.

The hard work of staying healthy is not without rewards.

"Being active in the winter not only is good for a person's physical health, but also their spiritual and emotional health," said Kolsrud.

Many teachers and students have reported seeing these effects from their daily workout.

"I run as a means of clearing my head," said Lindemann.

Some individuals use the time exercising to pray. "It gives me time to process what God wants me to do," said North.

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Students: Don’t let winter get you down

Find ways to be happy as last days of winter bring warmer, sunnier spring days ahead

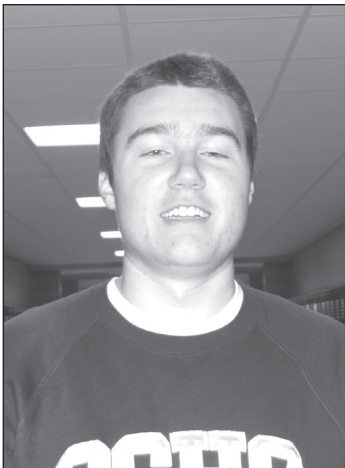
Max Stenson
Co-Editor

Short and dark days, bitterly cold temperatures, icy roads, lack of sunshine, dead grass, and unsightly trees with no signs of life all perfectly describe South Dakota winters. This lasts for about four months, and that is four months too long.

In addition to the environmental effects of winter, there are also various negative psychological and physical effects that winter brings with it. Among these are dry skin, more fatigue, and increased appetite.

It is obvious that there is no way to truly avoid winter and all its terrible side effects (unless one makes the drastic step of moving to a warm and sunny tropical environment), so the best thing we can do is practice coping techniques.

Because of my extreme hatred of winter, I have a lot of experience finding ways to deal with the most downright depressing season this earth has.



Max Stenson

For me, and many others, the best thing to do is exercise. Whether it be indoors on a treadmill, or skiing outside, the endorphins that are released because of exercise make you forget that it is actually the most depressing time of year outside.

However, I realize that not everyone has the desire (or ability) to exercise. If you are one of these people, then there are some other ways to deal with winter.

Another thing that helps me is to go on YouTube and listen to Caribbean and Hawaiian music while enjoying a quint-essential tropical snack such as pineapple or coconut. If you are really feeling the need to escape winter, do this and purchase some Polynesian-scented room spray as well. For those that want to take it even a step further, watch a video of swaying palm trees on a sand-covered island.

For people who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a light therapy lamp may help cheer you up. Although I have never used one, they are supposed to work wonders when it comes to curing the winter blues.

Winter is horrible. However, there are ways to cope with all of its negative effects. By doing the steps mentioned above, you will forget it is even winter and feel like you are living in paradise... until you have to step outside in sub-zero temperatures.

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